

# INTRODUCING THE LENA HORNE RECOGNITION ACT

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 2010*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Lena Horne Recognition Act, a bill to posthumously honor Lena Horne with a Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of her many achievements and contributions to American culture and the Civil Rights Movement. A symbol of elegance and grace, the legendary Lena Horne entertained America and broke racial barriers as a singer, dancer, and actress for over 60 years. Ms. Horne passed away in New York City on May 9, 2010 at the age of 92. My thoughts and prayers go out to her daughter, Ms. Gail Lumet Buckley, and the rest of her family and friends at this most difficult time.

Lena Mary Calhoun Horne was born on June 30, 1917, in Brooklyn, New York. Her path to international stardom would take her from Harlem's famous Cotton Club, where she was hired as a chorus dancer at the age of 16, to Charlie Barnet's jazz band, where she became one of the first African American women to tour with an all-white band, to Hollywood and Broadway.

In the 1940s, Ms. Horne was discovered by a Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer (MGM) talent scout and moved to Hollywood to be an actress, becoming the first black artist to sign a long-term contract with a major studio. Despite her extraordinary beauty and talent, however, she was often limited to minor acting roles because of her race. Among many lost opportunities, studio executives cast fellow actress Ava Gardner as Julie in the film adaptation of *Show Boat* instead of Ms. Horne because they did not want it to star a black actress. However, she dazzled audiences and critics in a number of films, including *Cabin in the Sky* and *Stormy Weather*.

The struggle for equal and fair treatment was an inseparable and increasingly political part of Ms. Horne's life. During World War II, Ms. Horne toured extensively with the United Service Organizations (USO) on the West Coast and in the South in support of the troops. She was outspoken in her criticism of the way black soldiers were treated, refusing to sing for segregated audiences or to groups in which German prisoners of war were seated in front of African American servicemen.

During the period of McCarthyism in the 1950s, Ms. Horne was blacklisted as a communist for seven years because of her civil rights activism and friendship with Paul Robeson and W.E.B. Du Bois. Although she continued to face discrimination, Ms. Horne's career flourished in television and on nightclub stages across the country. It was during this time that she also established herself as a major recording artist. In 1957, she recorded *Lena Horne at the Waldorf-Astoria*, which reached the Top 10 and became the best-selling album by a female singer in RCA Victor's history.

Sharing the stage with such names as Count Basie, Tony Bennett, Billy Eckstein, Vic Damone, and Harry Belafonte, Ms. Horne rose to international stardom and toured the world. She also starred in musical and television specials with such giants as Judy Garland, Bing Crosby, and Frank Sinatra.

Ms. Horne used her talent and fame to become a powerful voice for civil rights and equality. In 1963, she participated in the historic March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, at which Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his immortal "I Have a Dream" speech. She also performed at rallies throughout the country for the National Council of Negro Women and worked with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), of which she was a member since the age of two, the National Council of Negro Women, the Delta Sigma Theta sorority, and the Urban League throughout her career.

In 1981, Ms. Horne finally received the big break she had waited for her whole life. Her one-woman Broadway show, *Lena Horne: The Lady and Her Music*, was the culmination of her triumphs and struggles. It enjoyed a 14-month run before going on tour and earned her a special Tony and two Grammy awards.

Madam Speaker, Lena Horne was an extraordinary woman who refused to give up her dreams and used her beauty, talent, and intelligence to fight racial discrimination.

## INTRODUCTION OF THE DEPLOY NATIONAL GUARD TROOPS TO THE BORDER ACT

**HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 2010*

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of bipartisan legislation I introduced earlier today with my colleague Representative DANA ROHRBACHER of California: The Deploy National Guard Troops to the Border Act.

The Federal Government has a responsibility to secure the border, and it simply hasn't done it. As a result, we are once again facing an emergency. Not just an emergency at the border, I might add, but an emergency in the interior—in places like Phoenix, where smugglers and Mexican drug cartels have set up vast networks of drop houses, which operate as way stations for their illegal activities. The crime and violence associated with these drop houses is horrendous. Phoenix has become a kidnapping capital.

This is completely unacceptable.

While, undoubtedly, Congress needs to secure the border and fix our broken immigration system—the situation at the border cannot wait simply because it is an election year. This is an urgent threat to our national security.

I have urged President Obama to send additional National Guard troops to the border, much like I urged President Bush to extend the deployment of National Guard troops to the border in 2008. Sadly, to no avail.

That is why, today, I am introducing legislation to deploy 3,000 National Guard troops to the border to assist U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

Taking this step will help secure the border while Congress works on a more comprehensive, permanent fix.

The National Guard has successfully assisted with border security in the past. Operation Jump Start, which concluded its mission in 2008 proved remarkably effective. According to the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol, the Yuma Sector experienced a 68-percent decrease in apprehensions between October

1, 2006, and July 31, 2007, compared with the previous year. Border-wide, the National Guard helped seize more than 1,080 vehicles used to transport drugs and/or illegal immigrants, more than 300,600 pounds of marijuana, and 5,060 pounds of cocaine.

I thought the National Guard was drawn down too quickly and offered an amendment at the time to extend their deployment. Unfortunately my amendment was blocked from floor consideration.

I know there are strong views about immigration reform, and I know this is an election year. But we cannot let petty political concerns or inflammatory rhetoric to continue to compromise our national security. We cannot continue to kick this down the road for future Congresses to deal with. Now is the time to tone down the rhetoric, come together and take this critical step.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to pass this bill, and continue to work on a permanent security solution, as well as a fix to our broken and ineffectual immigration system.

## UNITED STATES-ISRAEL ROCKET AND MISSILE DEFENSE CO- OPERATION AND SUPPORT ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 19, 2010*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 5327, the United States-Israel Missile Defense Cooperation and Support Act of 2010. This legislation authorizes \$205 million dollars for the development and implementation of the Iron Dome—a missile defense system—that will be placed on Israel's borders with Gaza and Lebanon, and professes support for the security of Israel. I strongly support that. However, like many Israelis, I believe that Israel's security depends upon a stable and peaceful relationship with its Palestinian neighbors.

H.R. 5327 proposes that the means to achieve security for Israel is through investing in a missile defense system. I do not support that, and neither should anyone truly supportive of the security of Israel. Physicists have amply demonstrated that missile defense systems do not work. They can't hit a missile with a missile without rigging the tests in ways that are not simulations of realistic operation conditions. The missile system offered in H.R. 5327 will not stop any missiles, except by sheer luck, coming from Gaza or Lebanon.

This missile defense system will give a false sense of security to the Israelis, and it will serve to threaten countries in the region. The missile system proposed in H.R. 5327 will cause more destabilization, not less. It will cause nerves in the Middle East to become more frayed, not less. It will bring about the prospect of a military conflict more than it will bring about peace and reconciliation in the region.

I am also concerned that 43 years of military occupation in the West Bank, and the crippling siege of Gaza that has entered its fourth year, continue to undermine Israel's security. Investment in a missile defense system will not eliminate the need to address these